

Application No.: 10/589,796

Amendment and Response dated March 2, 2010

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-70 (canceled)

Claim 71. (Currently amended): A kit, in combination, comprising:

a container filled with a single portion of a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity, which preformed body is generally cup-shaped with a bottom, a sidewall extending from said bottom and opposite said bottom has an opening, wherein said body has a and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which circumferential rim is integral with the side wall and extends outwardly therefrom, and wherein said opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, said circumferential sealing seam comprising a weakened zone at a predetermined location, wherein the container is provided with identification means corresponding to the substance contained in the container so as to allow automatic identification of the container, and

a dispensing apparatus comprising receiving means for receiving the container, the apparatus furthermore comprising compression means for compressing the container body received in the receiving means, whereby, in use, the substance in the container is pressurized and the sealing seam between the cover sheet and the circumferential rim is broken at the location of the weakened zone such that a dispensing passage between the cover sheet and the circumferential rim of the container is provided for dispensing the substance from the container which apparatus is adapted to open the container and the apparatus furthermore comprising comprises identification recognition means for automatically identifying the container and the substance therein.

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Claim 72. (Canceled)

Claim 73. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means of the dispensing apparatus have a compression chamber with a variable volume for receiving the container body, a stop face engaging the back side of the circumferential rim and a covering lid with a supporting face for engaging the cover sheet of the container.

Claim 74. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 73, wherein the covering lid is provided with a recess arranged such that when the covering lid is closed it is positioned over a part of the sealing seam, so as to allow the cover of the container to bulge out into the recess upon compression of the container body and the sealing seam to break.

Claim 75. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means is adapted to receive containers with different body sizes.

Claim 76. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means is adapted to hold the circumferential rim of the container during dispensing of the substance.

Claim 77. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means are provided with ejection means for ejecting a container from the receiving means.

Claim 78. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 76, wherein the ejection means comprise one or more ejection rods, the ejection rods being movable with respect to the stop face towards a position wherein they project with respect to the stop face and engage the circumferential rim of the container.

Claim 79. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 78, wherein the ejection rods are stationary and the stop face is movable with respect to the ejection rods between a front position near the covering lid and a rear position distant from the covering lid.

Claim 80. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 72, wherein the compression chamber is provided with a piston coupled to drive means, which piston is adapted to engage the container body.

Claim 81. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means comprise a screw spindle and an electric motor.

Claim 82. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means comprise pneumatic means.

Claim 83. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means comprise hydraulic means.

Claim 84. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means are adapted to be hand driven.

Claim 85. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the dispensing apparatus comprises treatment means for treating the substance dispensed from the container.

Claim 86. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 85, wherein the treatment means comprise liquid dispensing means for a liquid to be mixed with the substance from the container.

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Claim 87. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 86, wherein the liquid dispensing means for liquid comprise means for dispensing cooled water and/or hot water and/or water with ambient temperature.

Claim 88. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 86, wherein the dispensing means for liquid comprise means for dispensing carbonated water.

Claim 89. (Currently amended): Kit according to claim 88, wherein the means for dispensing carbonated water comprise in combination a connecting arrangement for connecting a CO_2 CO_2 bottle to the dispensing apparatus and a CO_2 CO_2 bottle.

Claim 90. (Currently amended): Kit according to claim 89, wherein the CO_2 CO_2 bottle is provided with a closing valve and the connecting arrangement is provided with connecting means for opening the closing valve.

Claim 91. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 90, wherein the closing valve has a valve housing with a circumferential flange and the connecting means has engagement means for engaging said flange such that in a connected state a rotation of the valve housing with respect to the connecting means is prevented.

Claim 92. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the dispensing apparatus has dispensing means for different sorts of water, e.g. hot water, cooled water and carbonated water, which are positioned such that the different sorts of water can be dispensed at one point in a serving container like e.g. a cup or a bottle.

Claim 93. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the identification means are applied to the cover sheet of the container.

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Claim 94. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the identification means are applied to the preformed deformable body.

Claim 95. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 94, wherein the identification means are visual identification means, for example a bar code.

Claim 96. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 94, wherein the identification means comprise electronic identification means.

Claim 97. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 96, wherein the electronic identification means comprise a resonance circuit.

Claim 98. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 96, wherein the electronic identification means comprise a transponder.

Claim 99. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the identification recognition means comprise optical scanning means which are arranged in the receiving means of the dispensing apparatus such that the bottom surface of a container can be scanned.

Claim 100. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 99, wherein the optical scanning means comprise a laser scanner.

Claim 101. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the cover sheet is made of foil material.

Claim 102. (Previously presented): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the cover sheet comprises a multilayer material.

Claim 103. (Currently amended): A kit, in combination, comprising:

a container filled with a single portion of a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, wherein the container is provided with identification means corresponding to the substance contained in the container so as to allow automatic identification of the container, and

a dispensing apparatus comprising receiving means for receiving the container, which apparatus is adapted to open the container and comprises identification recognition means for automatically identifying the container and the substance therein,

wherein the receiving means of the dispensing apparatus have a compression chamber with a variable volume for receiving the container body, a stop face engaging the back side of the circumferential rim and a covering lid with a supporting face for engaging the cover sheet of the container, which covering lid is provided with a recess arranged such that when the covering lid is closed it is positioned over a part of the sealing seam, so as to allow the cover sheet of the container to bulge out locally into the recess in the covering lid upon compression of the container body and the sealing seam to break at the location of the recess in the covering lid whereby a dispensing passage for the substance is provided between the cover sheet and the circumferential rim.

Claims 104-154. (Canceled)

Claim 155. (New): A kit, in combination, comprising:

a container filled with a single portion of a beverage preparation concentrate, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity, which preformed body is generally cup-shaped with a bottom, a sidewall extending from said bottom and opposite said bottom an opening, wherein said body has a planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which circumferential rim is integral with the side wall and extends outwardly therefrom, and wherein

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said opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, said circumferential sealing seam comprising a weakened zone at a predetermined location, wherein the container is provided with identification means corresponding to the beverage preparation concentrate contained in the container so as to allow automatic identification of the container, and

a beverage dispensing apparatus comprising receiving means for receiving the container, the apparatus furthermore comprising compression means for compressing the container body received in the receiving means, whereby, in use, the beverage preparation concentrate in the container is pressurized and the sealing seam between the cover sheet and the circumferential rim is broken at the location of the weakened zone such that a dispensing passage between the cover sheet and the circumferential rim of the container is provided for dispensing the concentrate from the container into a mixing container, the apparatus furthermore comprising water dispensing means for dispensing water into said mixing container to mix it with the concentrate dispensed from the container and the apparatus furthermore comprising identification recognition means for automatically identifying the container and the substance therein.